

REMARKS

Claims 21-25 and 29-36 were pending in this application when the present Office Action was mailed (May 16, 2005). Claims 21-25 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation or other application, and new claims 37-44 have been added. Accordingly, claims 30-44 are currently pending.

In the May 16, 2005 Office Action, claims 21 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,066,163 to John et al. ("John") and claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over John. Claims 30-36 were indicated to be allowed.

Without commenting on or conceding the merits of the outstanding rejections of claims 21-25 and 29, these claims have been cancelled and accordingly, the rejections of these claims are now moot. New claims 37-44 have been added to depend from allowable claim 30.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the cited art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-3257.

Respectfully submitted,

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